

**THE MINUTES
OF THE
WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 15, 2002**

Chairman Brusch called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Members absent : M. Clark and W. Flewelling

Also present: Selectman Anne Marie Mahoney, Town Administrator Melvin Kleckner, Assistant to the Town Administrator Joyce Munro, and Town Meeting Member Jonathan Green (Precinct 8)

Discussion of the Warrant Committee Report

Chairman Brusch and the Committee reviewed the Warrant Committee Report for editorial changes. She reviewed with the Committee the need that for treasurer's increase in salary to \$65K, the \$6K difference would be derived \$5K from the Capital Budget, and \$1K come from Sidewalk Repair account.

Other Warrant Articles for Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting

Chairman Brusch reviewed the Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant (originally handed out in the May 8, 2002 meeting).

Special Town Meeting Article 2 Appropriation of money for the Town Hall Complex

· Member Heigham made a motion, Member Oates seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted in favor of recommending said action. Mr. Kleckner noted the amount was \$10,550,000. Member Schafer questioned when the actual borrowing of the money would occur. Member Hilgenberg responded the borrowing would occur in March or April 2003.

Special Town Meeting Article 3 Payment of prior fiscal year bill

Chairman Brusch gave some background information on this Article. The amount of money involved is \$9,072.92. Member Miller will check with the School Department to if there are any further bills regarding this issue. Member Schafer is concerned about the School Department funding this Article and if they can absorb the cost in their FY02 Budget.

· Member Heigham made a motion, Member Hofmann seconded said motion, and it was approved by majority in favor of recommending said action. · Article approved by: Chairman Brusch, Member White, Member Morley, Selectman Brownsberger, Member Widmer, Member Hilgenberg, Member Miller, Member Hobbs, Member Schafer, Member Hofmann, Member Heigham, Member Oates, and Member McCormick · Article abstained by: Member Curtis

Chairman Brusch informed the Committee that Special Town Meeting Articles 4 & 5 (Belmont Uplands MOA and Zoning) would be discussed on May 28th. Selectman

Brownsberger updated the Committee on the progress over the past few weeks on this issue.

Member Curtis noted that he sensed the November Town Meeting did not feel this was overall a good economic avenue for the Town. He wondered if there was any financial due diligence done on this issue to tell Town Meeting that the Town is getting a good deal. Selectman Brownsberger said the negatives of the deal have always been non-financial. He mentioned a for-profit biotech company is interested in coming in to that area.

The Committee discussed the timing of distributing materials to Town Meeting concerning these Articles. The Warrant Committee will postpone voting on recommendation of this Article until Wednesday May 22nd (using draft documents), with materials being sent to Town Meeting Members on Wednesday, May 22nd at the earliest.

Selectman Brownsberger informed the Committee on changes to Articles for the Annual Town Meeting.

· Article 14 (Permanent Senior Center Funding) will be dismissed. · Article 23 (Permanent Senior Center Funding) will be moved so that Town Meeting would allow for a permanent Senior Center be considered a necessity and move that Town Meeting will make progress in this matter a necessity. · Article 21 (Trapelo Road Zoning) will be put off until a later date. · Article 12 (Stabilization Fund) will be dismissed. · Article 15 (State Early Retirement Incentive Program) will be dismissed since it allows the Board of Selectmen to enact this legislation instead of a Town Meeting vote. · Article 24 (Composition of Board of Selectmen) is still on. · Article 27 (Quarterly Reports) will not be dismissed at Town Meeting. There are two things that will occur provided the override passes: 1. significantly increase the portion of the Board of Selectmen's paper flow available on the web site along with \$12K has been added to the web site budget in Option B, and 2. create a one or two page item that will go in the Light bills pointing residents to more information being available on the web site.

Two Warrant Committee members oppose this article as originally drafted. The Warrant Committee will postpone voting on recommendation of this Article until Monday May 20th when they have the motion.

Member Schafer questioned Selectman Brownsberger on the progress of the Fire Station Consolidation Committee progress. Selectman Brownsberger noted the Board of Selectmen are satisfied with the Volkswagen site for one station with another station in Belmont Center. Selectman Mahoney added there will be further discussion with neighboring residents to Belmont Center regarding the specific position of the Belmont Center Fire Station location.

Articles 9 & 10 Personnel Policy Guide and Classification/Compensation Plan Mr. Kleckner met with the Personnel Board on Monday (May 13th). There are some changes to the Personnel Handbook, nothing too major. Town Meeting will receive the changes on Monday night. The Committee will discuss these Articles on Monday night.

Article 11 Capital Budget This Article will be discussed by the Warrant Committee on Monday night.

Discussion of FY2003 Budget

Mr. Kleckner reviewed his memo (Handout 3) regarding final budget preparations for Town Meeting along with the most current "FY2003 Revenue Forecast and Requested Budget" (Handout 2).

· Member Hofmann made a motion, Member McCormick seconded said motion and it was unanimously voted to allocate \$13,721 into the Cemetery overtime account for Option A.

Chairman Brusch reminded the Committee that the State Legislature is likely to restore Chapter 70 to FY02 levels. The Town's FY03 budget allocations did not specifically allocate the 10% Chapter 70 cut to be absorbed by the Schools. The Town arrived at expenditure figures by using a formula based on percentages in the FY02 budget. If the \$317K of additional State Aid is restored, it may or may not all go to the School Department. Selectman Brownsberger noted the bottom line is if/when this money comes into the picture (probably well after July 1), there will need to be a discussion on this topic. Member Schafer agreed, but she does not also want it to become all apportioned to the Town as well.

Member Widmer asked Mr. Kleckner on the decline in Additional Assistance from the State (10%). If the State restored it, how much would the restoration be for the Town? Ms. Munro responded \$104K. Member Miller said in talking with State Representative Anne Paulsen, she mentioned the intent of the restored money would be for the Schools.

The Committee took a vote for each expenditure program in the "FY2003 Revenue Forecast and Requested Budget" (Handout 2). With 13 members present, the results are as follows:

General Government

Option A \$7,028,992

- Member Heigham made a motion, Member Hilgenberg seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$7,159,949

- Member Heigham made a motion, Member Hilgenberg seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Public Safety

Option A \$8,588,948

- Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Hofmann seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$9,065,845

- Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Hofmann seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Belmont Public Schools

Option A \$27,038,399

- Member Schafer made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$28,238,339

- Member Schafer made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Minuteman Regional Vocational School

Option A \$504,607

- Member Heigham made a motion, Member Hobbs seconded said motion, and it was voted by majority to recommend said action.
- Chairman Bruschi, Member White, Member Curtis, Member Morley, Selectman Brownsberger, Member Widmer, Member Hilgenberg, Member Miller, Member Hobbs, Member Hofmann, Member Heigham, and Member Oates voted to recommend said action.
- Member Schafer voted not to recommend said action.

Option B

- Member Oates made a motion, Member Hobbs seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Public Works

Option A \$15,565,135

- Member Heigham made a motion, Member Hofmann seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$15,860,823

- Member Heigham made a motion, Member Hofmann seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Human Services

Option A \$761,144

- Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Hofmann seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$812,038

- Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Hofmann seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Culture & Recreation

Option A \$2,012,796

- Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$2,096,221

- Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Debt & Interest

Option A \$2,816,675

- Member Hofmann made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$2,816,675

- Member Hofmann made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Capital Budget

Option A \$1,886,253

- Member Hofmann made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Option B \$2,118,453

- Member Hofmann made a motion, Member Heigham seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to recommend said action.

Other

Chairman Brusch told the Warrant Committee there will be meetings at the High School Room 145 on: Monday May 20th at 6 PM, Wednesday May 22nd at 6 PM, Thursday May 23rd (tentatively) either before Town Meeting (6 PM) or at 7:30 PM in the event that there is not a Town Meeting Session that evening. The purpose of the meeting on Thursday will be to discuss the Uplands. There also will be a meeting on Tuesday May 28th at 6 PM. For Wednesday May 22nd and Thursday May 23rd, Chairman Brusch asked the Committee for everyone to be present at Town Meeting since budget will be discussed.

Member Flewelling made a motion, and it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina E. Frizzell

Interim Recording Clerk